

SCHELL DIVISION

The forage crop on Schell Division, as compared with previous years, is much less than heretofore, due to overgrazing and improper methods in handling the range by the users the past season, perhaps it may be said to antedate the past season and extend back as far as several seasons, but notwithstanding the improper use of the range in the past, stock are again leaving the range in good condition, but no guarantee could be made that such would continue under the past methods of use and very plainly shows the need of proper administration and conservation.

Closing of Certain Areas

"On District No. 4, it is very necessary that no grazing be allowed on portions of it for several years to come by reason of the fact that the range must have a complete rest and be able to re-stock which has been brought about by the methods of handling and over-grazing in the past. The areas are at present almost devoid of any vegetation except a growth of sagebrush and weeds that are not usable for a forage and in many places as barren as a clean swept floor; the portions referred to are: "Red Flat" north to the present boundary line of the Forest, on the west side of the range, beginning at the head of Tehama Creek, also on such portions of the crest of the range south from the head of White Man Creek to Muncy Canyon. The conditions of Ruby Hill country being especially in bad condition, should have a rest from sheep for a couple of years at least."

Approximately 41,000 head of sheep have been using the several range districts in the Schell Creek Division the past season, and at times a great portion on one district. This number is far in excess of the carrying capacity of the range and must be reduced in order to provide a continuous range, one year with another. The several interests in the sheep class should be distributed to the several districts and none but ewes with lambs by their side should be grazed under present range conditions, which class of stock, it is necessary to have mountain feed for in order to bring about the best results for mutton and stock. District No. 4 could provide for approximately 8,500 head of sheep; District No. 5 will graze about 12,000 and District No. 3 about 12,000, together with lambs at their side. It will be possible for users to cut out dry sheep and wethers to this extent and in no way work a hardship on any of them, if the matter is taken in time, and I would recommend that not exceeding 31,000 head of ewes, together with lambs at their sides be allowed to graze on District Nos. 3, 4, and 5, (Schell Division). This number will occupy the range to its fullest capacity, under present conditions, and it is very probable that this number will be found to have been in excess of the carrying capacity of the range at the time of next season's range inspection.

That the country north from the head of Tehama Creek to the north line of the present boundary of the Schell Creek Division in District No. 4 on the west side of the range which is known as "Red Flat" and "Quinn Springs" country be closed for such time as may be necessary to re-establish the range in proper condition for grazing of such class of stock as the country may be needed for at that time. That no permits be issued for grazing of sheep on the crest of the range south from White Man Creek to

Ruby Hill, but that the territory be given a rest for a couple of years and give the range a chance to reseed, but that the territory be used for sheep as soon thereafter as this process had taken place.

Approximately 1,800 head of cattle and 350 head of horses have been using the National Forest range, not including the wild horses in Schell Division the past season, or are tributary to it. This number can be amply provided for within the territory and I would recommend that this number be allowed to graze; that Mattier Creek and North Creek canyons and their tributaries be reserved as cattle range in District No. 4. On District No. 5, that Piermont Canyon, Meadow Canyon, which is the next canyon north of Piermont, together with a strip of territory from Taft Creek south to the north side of Cleveland Creek reaching approximately to the summit of the range be reserved for cattle and horse territory, provided there is shown at the time of receiving applications for permits a sufficient demand for such range, on District No. 5 this coming season.

Baker Ranger District including the Snake and Moriah Divisions

In 1955, the ice field located at the base of Wheeler Peak was classified as Mathies Glacier.

On July 30, 1934 a permit was issued to the Southwest Museum, Archaeological Explorations. This Special Use was located in Smith Creek in Sec. 21, T 12 N, R 70 E, Mt. Diablo Meridian and was issued for the exploration and development of the archaeology important structures of this area.

A report by M. H. Harrington creator of the Southwest Museum, also Assistant Park Naturalist of the State Parks Division, Natural Park Service on the exploration of the Smith Creek area is as follows:

Smith Creek Cave - This cave is situated on the north side of the Smith Creek Canyon, about 34 miles north of Baker, Nevada, and lies some 1,000 feet above the bottom of the canyon. A few test pits and test trenches reveal the presence of very deep deposits of dust and disintegrated limestone formations forming the floor of the cave and reaching in some places a depth of more than 12 feet. In the upper foot or so were traces of Indians in the form of hearths, shredded juniper bark, corncob, work sticks, bits of fiber, a string and the like. The deeper strata yielding animal homes of many species, extinct and living, from the size of mice upwards. Among the extinct forms were two species of native american horse, the large pleistocene, a form of mountain goat, not yet identified, and an extinct vulture. The living forms included deer, mountain sheep, wolf, mountain lion, lynx, eagle, and smaller creatures.

We had hoped to find indisputable evidence of the presence of man associated with this pleistocene fauna, and in fact we did uncover bits of charcoal at considerable depths, and some of the bones seemed to have been split by human hands for the extraction of the marrow. Positive proof of the association, however, such as hearths, implements, human bones, was not found, although further excavation may reveal it.

The Upper Baker Creek Cave - This cave is situated at the upper end of Baker Creek Canyon about 6 miles above the village of Baker, Nevada. Its superficial floor deposits, containing comparatively recent Indian traces, has been pretty well dug over; but on a previous visit I discovered the presence of deep deposits, and so, this summer, I spent a few days sinking a shaft. This revealed the fact that ashes and charcoal of human origin, fragments of animal bones and occasional rude stone implements here extend down to a depth of more than 12 feet.

None of the bone fragments was identifiable, however, as belonging to an extinct species; but the possibility exists that such may still be found in association with the ashes and implements upon further excavation; especially as a split bone, apparently from some extinct species of horse, was found in a shallow test hole elsewhere in the cave.

Conclusion - Although definite proof of the association of ancient man with these animals of pleistocene type, now extinct, was not fully established for the Baker, Nevada area, our work showed that both Smith Creek and Baker Creek caves are excellent sites to search for further evidence bearing on this problem.

The Snake and Moriah Divisions of the old Nevada National Forest were administered by one Ranger with headquarters located at Baker until 1957, at which time they were combined with the Ely District.

Discovery of Lehman Caves, Pioneer Nevada

Absolom Lehman, pioneer eastern Nevada rancher, was hauling timber from the Snake Range to his valley home, when the off horse of his logging team stumbled and sank shoulder deep in the apparently firm hillside surface. Seeking a clear path down the mountain, Lehman had unknowingly driven his team over a crusty portion of earth where a series of underground caves rose within inches of the surface. Thin overburden gave way to the unexpected weight of the horse and Absolom Lehman became the first human to glimpse an underground art which nature had been carving and etching since days preceding the ice age.

Lehman caves was set aside by proclamation by Warren G. Hardy, President of the United States. It was set aside as unusual scientific interest importance, and it appears that the public interest will be promoted by reserving these caves with as much land as necessary for the proper protection thereof as a National Monument.

Ely area still has a hand in mining. Furnishes water from Ward and Duck Creek.

Mining, which played such an important role in the early history of White Pine County, is today the main source of income to its people. Water is very important to the mining industry; as well as to the people of the communities which the mines support. The town of McGill and the mill located there receives the bulk of its water supply from the Duck Creek area, located in the Schell Range. Ruth and the mining in the Ruth area is dependent on the water supply received from the Ward Mountain Division.

Inasmuch as this mining activity does a business in excess of ten million each year, the watershed in these areas are extremely valuable.

Nevada National Forest Rangers

White Pine District

Don Ward
Gene Hoffman
Jim Butler
Foyer Olsen
Horace Jensen
Robert A. Williams
George E. Moore
Windous
P.M. Rees
Moore
Thomas Windous
McQueen
Jack McGuire
George Garson
Charley Thompson

Ely District

Don Cox
Archie Murchie
Foyer Olsen
Ben R. Stahmann
James Cahill
Barney McNulty
D.B. Bailey

George Larson

Baker District

George Fry
Les Flukerger
Reed Thompson
M.I. Bishop
Sylvan D. Warner
George Larson
Graham S. Quate
Charlie Thompson

Nevada National Forest Supervisors

Royal Mathias
George C. Thompson
Fred L. Mott
McQueen
C.A. Beam
Chester Olsen

Nevada National Forest Supervisors, continued

Larson

A.E. Briggs

~~Paeker~~ Herbert John

L.A. Dremolski ~~John Parkes~~

Nevada National Forest

2/10/1909 - Establishment
10/28/1912 - Added and eliminated lands
1/25/1919 - Eliminated land
6/23/32 - Added entire Toiyabe
7/1/1937 Added Moapa Division of Dixie National Forest
5/9/1938 Transferred land to Toiyabe
10/1/1957 Divided entire Forest between Humboldt and
Toiyabe